

Learning Resources and Technology

Newsletter

January 2002

Real Science 7 Teacher Guide

Real Science 7 is an instructional television series for students in Grades 5-10, designed to introduce them to exciting careers in science. It is aired on Connecticut Public Television on Mondays at 11:00 a.m., beginning on February 11, 2002. A teacher guide for the series is available on-line. Check it out at:

<http://www.realscience.org>

Perspectives in Children's Literature Conference

The 32nd Perspectives in Children's Literature Conference will take place on Saturday, April 6, 2002, at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Campus. The conference features keynote addresses by Eric Carle and Joseph Bruchac. In addition, there are workshops, publishers' exhibits and book sales. For complete information on the program and registration, visit the following web site:

<http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~childlit/>

Black History Month Resources

February is Black History month. The following resources may be useful as you prepare for it in your district.

The African-American Mosaic: A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture.

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>

This site covers nearly 500 years of the black experience in the western hemisphere and includes books, periodicals, prints, photographs, music, film and recorded sound. It focuses on

four major areas: colonization, abolition, migrations and the WPA.

Timeline of the American Civil Rights Movement.

<http://www.wmich.edu/politics/mlk>

This site is maintained by students at Western Michigan University's Department of Political Science. It offers brief overviews of important dates, starting with the Brown vs. Board of Education case in 1954.

Yahooligans: Black History Month

<http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/Yahooligans/bhm>

This site includes news stories, links to other black history web sites, biographies, links to civil rights movement sites and African American history.

Improving Literacy Through School Libraries

The "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001" has been signed by the President. Among the many changes for the educational community is good news for school library media programs. Title 1, Part B, Subpart 4, Improving Literacy Through School Libraries, creates a new program to assist schools with high child-poverty rates to provide students with access to:

- Up-to-date school library materials;
- Technologically advanced school library media centers; and
- Professionally certified school library media specialists.

Specifically, funds may be used to:

- Acquire school library media resources;
- Acquire and use technology that can help to develop the information retrieval and critical thinking skills of students;

- Facilitate Internet links and other resource-sharing networks;
- Provide professional development for school library media specialists and activities that foster increased collaboration between school library media specialists, teachers and administrators; and
- Provide students with access to school libraries during non-school hours.

A total of \$250 million has been authorized for this federal grant program in 2002. Details on the implementation of the grant program will be forthcoming.

Legislative Technology Exposition

The Connecticut Educator's Computer Association (CECA) will be sponsoring the 8th Annual Legislative Technology Exposition on Wednesday, March 27, 2002. The event brings groups of teachers and students from around the state to the Legislative Office Building in Hartford to set up displays and demonstrations that show how they use technology to support learning. Details about how you can get involved in this popular event are available on the CECA web site: <http://www.ceca-ct.org>

Even if you cannot bring a group of students to the Exposition, encourage your legislative representatives, town officials, Board of Education members, parents and others to attend this interesting exposition and see how students across the state are using technology to enhance their learning.

CatExpress: An Affordable, Easy-to-Use Cataloging Solution

By Gail Hurley, Statewide Library Catalog Coordinator for the Connecticut Digital Library

Are you one of those libraries that has a box of books and videos still waiting to be cataloged? Do you think you would be able to catalog them if you had access to 47 million records? In January, 2001, the Connecticut State Library began a pilot project with 10 libraries to try out OCLC's CatExpress. The pilot ended in June

2001 and its success led the State Library to become a consortial member in order to offer this product to libraries in the state.

The only requirement for using CatExpress services is a basic reQuest membership, currently \$300/year. The charge for cataloging on CatExpress is \$.893 per record. Libraries determine how many records they think they will catalog during a July 1-June 30 time period and pay that amount up front. CatExpress works like this:

- First, search for an item in reQuest using the WebCAT function that is part of the basic request membership. reQuest has 3.6 million records to choose from. If you find an exact match for the item in hand, you can add your library's holdings to the record and also download the marc record to use in your own local system.
- If you have items that cannot be found in reQuest, log onto CatExpress and search the WorldCat database for those items. Catalog the items. A file of records you do that day will appear the next day for you to load into your own system. At the same time, a copy of the records you cataloged will go into reQuest automatically.

To see how the product works, try out the free CatExpress tutorial on-line. It takes about an hour from start to finish and does not require any training beyond the tutorial. The tutorial can be accessed at:

<http://www.oclc.org/oclc/cataloging/catexpress/atxtutorial.htm>

If your school wants to use CatExpress and is not yet a reQuest member, a reQuest Participation Form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.cslib.org/cln/join.htm>

The completed form can be faxed to the Digital Library Office (860-344-2556) and you will be invoiced for the \$300 membership plus the amount you decide to spend on CatExpress and be signed up for hands-on training for reQuest functions. If you have questions, please e-mail them to: ghurley@cslib.org or call (860)344-2652 or toll-free (888)256-1222.